

Helio graph

123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Spring 2003

Guardsmen on the Move



Soldiers from the 1404th Transportation Co., Show Low, AZ, prepare a 5-ton truck for mobilization. *(photo by Staff Sgt. Ernie Paquette)*

story by Staff Sgt. Marty Hammonds

The Arizona National Guard has had a busy year with the mobilization of units in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

"We have activated over 1200 soldiers so far," says Lt. Col. Felicia French, State Mobilization Readiness Officer.

A variety of organizations have been federalized, including transportation, military police and artillery units. Some units have been tasked with security duties while others have yet to learn their ultimate destinations.

In preparation for additional activations, remaining guardsmen have participated in Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP). Through SRP, soldiers review personnel records, pay records, security clearance data and receive physicals. The SRP helps to screen soldiers and identify those ready for deployment.

As world events change, the need for guardsmen changes. It is to the benefit of each soldier, and his/her family, to keep their affairs in order and to take advantage of the resources the National Guard has in place to support its soldiers.

"Always Ready, Always There."



**NGB CSM visits
Arizona**

More Arizona Units Receive Movement Orders



**Homeland Security
on Agenda**



Vol. XXV Issue 2

**123rd Mobile PA Det
5636 E. McDowell Rd
Phoenix, Arizona 85008**

**602.267.2652 or
DSN 853.2652**

Heliograph@az.ngb.army.mil

Command Staff:

**Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak
Adjutant General**

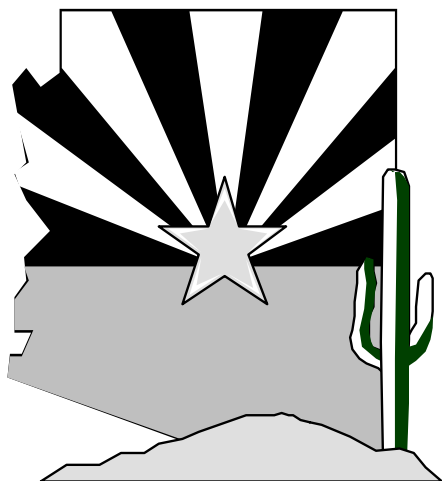
**Brig. Gen. Richard Maxon
Asst. AG-Army**

**Maj. Eileen K. Bienz
State PA Officer**

**Maj. William Willhoite
123rd MPAD Commander**

**Staff Sgt. Marty Hammonds
Editor in Chief**

**123rd MPAD Journalists
Staff Sgt. Ernie Paquette
Sgt. Willie Jones
Sgt. Thomas Quigg
Spc. Crystal Reidy**



Arizona Soldier's Dedication Needed Once Again

Over the past few months, we have seen a number of our units called to active duty to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. To date, over 1200 Arizona Army National Guard soldiers have been mobilized. Additional units are being evaluated for deployment as I write this article. Needless to say, this has been an extremely busy time for all of us.

In watching the mobilizations, I am reminded of what we experienced more than a decade ago when we mobilized for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. There are many similarities. Nearly every unit called up in 1990-1991 which is still on our rolls have been activated once again. We asked our soldiers to set aside their personal lives, leave their jobs and their families to answer the Nation's call to duty. We find ourselves, once again, facing that awesome responsibility.

There is one significant difference between what we experienced then and what we are learning to manage this time. In Desert Shield/Storm, there was significantly more time between the time a unit was alerted and actually mobilized. It was not uncommon for soldiers to be given a full thirty days to

prepare themselves, their families and their employers. Today, we are receiving considerably less time from alert notification to mobilization and shipment to the mobilization station. As few as seven days have not been uncommon. The world situation is different today than a decade ago and we are simply being required to respond much more quickly.

As I visit the various units to see them prior to their shipment to the mobilization station, I have been amazed with the determination and courage I see in our soldiers. The short notice mobilizations, to be sure, are causing some personal and family challenges, but no one is dwelling on their personal situation. To a person, our soldiers are standing tall and are anxious to get on with the tasks at hand. The sense of unity and teamwork is readily apparent. We couldn't ask for a finer group of soldiers to represent the Arizona Army National Guard in the Global War on Terrorism.

General Rataczak and I are often invited to speak to various civic groups and gatherings. Many of them want to know our views on what is going to happen in Iraq. While we try to address their



Brig. Gen. Richard Maxon

questions, we quickly bring the discussion back around to talking about our soldiers and their willingness to serve. We want our citizens to know just how lucky they are to have a National Guard made up of such wonderful citizen soldiers. Those who haven't served sometimes don't fully understand the sacrifices you make to do what you do. Those that have served do understand. Everyone goes out of his or her way to make sure we know how much your service is appreciated.

I am extremely proud to tell people that I am in the National Guard serving with such great soldiers. Your willingness to go do the hard thing at great personal and family sacrifice is something most of our civilian counterparts will never fully comprehend. It's a tough job but, if it were easy, anyone could do it.

Thank you for your service.

DEPLOYED ARIZONA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD UNITS

**D Company, 245th Aviation, Phoenix
363RD EOD Company, Casa Grande
258th RAOC, Glendale
1404th Trans Co., Show Low/
Bellemont
1/180th FA Battalion, Phoenix/Tucson**

**356th Signal Co., Phoenix
855th MP Co., Phoenix/Yuma
2222th Trans Co., Tucson/Nogales/Douglas
2220th Trans Co., Flagstaff/Prescott
Company G, 285th Aviation Reg., Phoenix
Company C, 111th ASMB, Glendale**

The Heliograph is an authorized publication under the provisions of AR 360-81 and is published for the Arizona Army National Guard by the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 5425 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Arizona, 85008-3425.

The Heliograph is published quarterly, using Adobe Desktop publishing. The circulation is approximately 4,000. The publication is printed within government guidelines and is distributed free via U.S. Mail to all members of the Arizona Army National Guard.

The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the Arizona Army National Guard. Any unsolicited submissions will be subject to revision due to space limitations, security, accuracy and propriety.

If you would like to submit stories, photographs, cartoon artwork or to make inquiries, e-mail us at Heliograph@az.ngb.army.mil. Inquirers may also call 602.267.2879.

Lever Visits Arizona Soldiers

story and photos by Staff Sgt. Ernie Paquette

On February 26, 2002, the Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard, Cmd. Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever, III, arrived in Tucson, Ariz., for a tour of southern and central Arizona. Lever was invited to Arizona by Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Kevin Herzinger, Western Army Aviation Training Site (WAATS), to be the guest speaker for the First Gunfighter Ball, held March 1st.

Lever let it be known that he wanted to visit with as many guardsmen as possible. The State CSM Karen Craig and Herzinger, put together an aggressive agenda that kept Lever busy for three full days. Lever wanted to talk to soldiers both in the field and at their duty stations. His primary concerns are the welfare of soldiers and if they have what they need to safely perform the duties they have been assigned. He recognized individuals who had shown a willingness to go above and beyond what was expected of them as soldiers and presented them with his coin.

The Recruit Holding Company at the 158th Regimental Training Institute, was of particular interest to Lever. Lever stated that last year, the Guard as a whole lost over 10,000 potential soldiers between the

time they were sworn in and when they would have completed their Advanced Individual Training. He was encouraged to see what the Arizona Army National Guard was doing to reduce the number of people that are lost during this time frame.

During his visit to Arizona, Lever visited soldiers in Tucson and Phoenix. Included in his visit were soldiers participating in the Force Protection missions, as well as members of the WAATS, the 1/285th, Army Aviation Support Facility #2, HQ State Area Command, the 91st Civil Support Team, Peace Vanguard and Co. G, 285th Aviation.

Lever was encouraged by what he experienced during his visit to Arizona. He said he would be returning in August 2003 for a Senior NCO conference. Craig promised to show him the northern part of the state at that time.

Lever said that he did not believe he had ever seen as much of one state in such a short time ever before, and it was well worth the trip.



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever, III (right), speaks with Private 1st Class Antonio Vilencia, 1/ 180th FA, on duty at Luke AFB.



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever, III speaks with Spec. Irma Wells, a patient administrator for Arizona Medical Command.



PFC Humberto Moran, III, B Btry, 2/180th FA Bn., discusses range procedures with Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Lever.



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Lever takes a visual acuity test at the Arizona Medical Command.

356th Signal Departs

story by Staff Sgt. Marty W. Hammonds

Soldiers of the 356th Signal Company (TROPO) loaded equipment and personnel and departed for Ft. Bliss, Texas, on February 9, 2003, in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Quiet determination could be seen on the faces of soldiers as they carried and packed equipment onto buses.

“I’m ready to go,” said Sgt. Entz Boise, Phoenix, formerly with the 82nd Airborne Division. Boise had just completed his third drill with the unit when the call came for activation.

“Let’s get it done,” said Boise.

Morale was high as soldiers contemplated what the future might hold in store for them.

“I hope things go smoothly,” said

SpC. Reginald C. Powell, II, Tucson. “I got out got out of the military 17 years ago and came back because of 9/11.” A father of six, Powell says his family is close and that his family has received great support from friends and their church.

“This is something I always wanted to do,” said SpC. Robert M. Lopez, Phoenix. “Now is my chance.” A tool and parts attendant at

Organizational Maintenance Shop 1, Lopez has been in the guard for four years.

After a few words from Maj. Gen. David Rataczak, Arizona Adjutant General, and the completion of loading equipment, soldiers boarded buses and departed, heading to Ft. Bliss, for mobilization processing before receiving their next assignment.



Flags through the window of the Show Low armory wave in the breeze accenting the mural inside the armory.



A G Co., 285th Avn. soldier loads equipment in preparation for activation.

Deployments

an

Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Frank Lever addresses Basic Training Orientation Course students at the Arizona Regional Training Institute.



Soldiers of the 1404th Trans Co. line the sidewalk of the armory in Show Low, Ariz., for a pre-deployment wedding.





Alicia Manygoats, 1404th Trans Co. receives her sergeant stripes before departing home station.



Sgt. Entz Boise, Phoenix, loads his equipment prior to the departure of the 356th Signal Company.

nd *Dignitaries*

Cmd. Sgts. Maj. Frank Lever (center) and Karen Craig speak with Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Soto at Florence, Ariz.



Maj. Gen. David Rataczak presents Under Secretary Michael Brown with an Arizona Adjutant General's coin



What are you doing to prepare yourself and your family in case of mobilization?

“My wife is taking it better then me. I have a lot of support from family and friends. Also, USAA gave me a lot of useful information. They have helped me a lot. It’s also a matter of communicating with family and work.”

Staff SGT Loui Overstreet
258th Engineer Co.
Tempe, Ariz.



“First getting finances together in advance. I’m avoiding buying big-ticket items to save money. Also, I buy savings bonds to have on hand if I need them for my family.”

PFC Juan C. Rives
855th MP CO
Phoenix, Ariz.

“I just told my family what they can expect if I get deployed. I am also trying to live my life as normally as possible before being deployed.”

SPC Tiffney M. Coffman
259th Engineers Co.
Scottsdale, Ariz.



“I’ve been in the military for a long time so I know to always be prepared. My kids know I love what I do so that helps them when I have to leave.”

SGT Carolyn J. Ayers
259th Engineers Co.
Phoenix, Ariz.

“Pretty much we are trying to get our finances straight, so we don’t have to worry about that.”

PFC Jerrill L. Miller
259th Engineer Co.
Phoenix, Ariz.



1404th TC Deploys

story by Staff Sgt. Marty W. Hammonds

On January 27, 2003, members of the 1404th Transportation Company (TC), Show Low, Ariz., reported for active duty in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle. Over 100 soldiers departed for Ft. Bliss, TX, for processing and orders sending them to a destination to be determined by the U.S. Army.

The unit had received notification several weeks earlier that they might be called to active duty but, when the call did come, the unit had less than a week to notify their personnel and pack all of their equipment to depart on schedule.

“Typically, we have nine days to gear up for a deployment like this,” said Staff Sgt. John P. Salazar, Jr., a squad leader in the 2nd Platoon. “Through dedication, long hours, hard work, and team work, we were

able to get ready in only three days,”

Unit personnel not only had the unit to prepare, but their personal lives as well.

“I wanted to deploy with the unit and get this experience in hopes that it will make me a better officer someday,” says Spc. Joseph Wren. A Cadet with the Northern Arizona University ROTC program, Wren withdrew from the program but says he would like to come back and attend the Officer Candidate School in Phoenix.

Wren and his fiancé decided they’d get married before he left. They flew to Las Vegas, Nev., on January 21st and got married at the Aladdin Hotel.

Private 1st Class Kristyna Robinson had just returned from Basic Training



A 1404th soldier ground guides a PLS.

(photo by Staff Sgt. Ernie Paquette)

and Advanced Individual Training in August 2002. Robinson, a senior and cheerleader at Northern Arizona University, where her cheerleading squad was to compete in a national competition in February. Four other members of the cheerleading squad are also members of the 1404th TC. “My Mom is really worried,” said

Robinson. “She is a little on the over-protective side, but she is real proud of me. My whole family is.”

Like other units that have deployed, the soldiers of the 1404th are ready to do their duty and return as soon as possible.

Co. G, 285th Aviation Regiment/ C-111th Medical Receive Deployment Orders

Unit activations continued in March with Company G, 285th Aviation Regiment and Company C, 111th Combat Support Medical Battalion receiving activation orders in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Stationed at Papago Park Military Reservation in Phoenix, Company G is an air

traffic control company providing service to military aircraft activities. Service includes radar approach and air traffic control.

Company C, stationed at the Glendale armory provides battlefield medical and emergency medical services.

Like other units in the state, both companies had been

preparing their personnel and equipment for activation. The units participated in Soldier Readiness Processing in February, receiving physicals, records checks and pre-mobilization briefings.

Company G reported to Ft. Hood, Texas, for mobilization and pre-deployment training, while Company C reported to Ft. Bliss, Texas. Their deployments could last for up to one year.



Spec. Marissa Sorn measures a fellow soldier for their body armor.



Sgt. Nancy Ramos, G Co, 285th Avn., verifies measurements for Chemical Protective suits.



Specs. Ethan Karlson and Gerald Massey load unit equipment into conex boxes in preparation for movement to their mobilization station in Texas.

Undersecretary Listens to Arizona Officials

story & photos by Staff Sgt. Marty W. Hammonds

Under Secretary of Emergency Preparedness & Response, Michael Brown, visited the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs on Friday, March 7, 2003, to meet with officials to discuss local preparedness and response issues.

Following his meeting with Maj. Gen. David P. Rataczak, Arizona Adjutant General, Brown met with representatives from around the state. Attending officials included state, county and tribal representatives as well as the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).

“I want to find out what the needs and concerns are,” said Brown.

“This is where the rubber meets the road and I want to know what the concerns are at this level.”

After meeting with officials, Brown moved to the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to hold a press conference with local media. The EOC is responsible for coordinating the communications and assets for disasters in the state, such as the Rodeo-Chediski fire in 2002.

“Just do your job,” said Brown when asked how the National Guard could assist in the preparedness of the community. “Do what you (the National Guard) do well and be ready to assist when you’re needed.”



Undersecretary Brown answers media questions at the state EOC.



The children of soldiers talk about mobilization and its effects on them. (photo by Maj. William Willhoite)